Portland Institute for Loss and Transition

Grief Therapy Learning Retreat (April 2-6, 2027)

List of Presenting Faculty

Barros-Lane, L., PhD, MSW



Liza Barros-Lane is an Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Houston-Downtown and founder of *The Young Widowhood Project*. Widowed at 36 just months after joining UHD, she pivoted her research to focus on the emotional, social, and embodied experiences of young widows. Her work explores identity, sexuality, and disenfranchised grief, including *widows' fire* – the sudden resurgence of sexual desire after loss. She has published in *Death Studies*, *OMEGA*, and the *Journal of Loss and Trauma*, and has presented at national and international conferences. Liza is committed to bridging the gap between research and practice through accessible and socially conscious grief education. She shares her work on Instagram and Facebook @the widowed researcher and hosts the podcast *WidowPod: The Stories and Research of Young Widowhood*.

Coenen, C., GTMR, FT, CGC



Claudia Coenen is a grief counselor and thanatologist in private practice in Hudson, NY. After a lifetime as a performer in music, choreography and dance, Claudia now leads experiential workshops, keynotes and in-service training on creative techniques for grief. Claudia is the author of *Shattered by grief: Picking up the pieces to become WHOLE again* and *The creative toolkit for working with grief and bereavement: A practitioner's guide*, the *Karuna Cards*, creative prompts for grief, and *Seasons of Grief: Creative interventions to support bereaved people*, with chapters from 17 therapists, end of life practitioners, artists and poets. Her newest publications are *Karuna Cards for thriving after loss*, and *An invitation to thrive: Cultivating resilience and purpose after bereavement, life transitions and multiple loss.*

Greenbaum, J., EdD



Jill Greenbaum is a contemplative chaplain, a mindfulness and grief coach, visual storyteller and story catcher, end-of-life death literacy advocate, and teaching artist in private practice. She is a graduate of the Upaya Zen Center's Buddhist Chaplaincy Training Program, the Art of Dying Institute's Integrative Thanatology Program, and received her certification in art-assisted grief therapy from the Portland Institute for Loss and Transition. Her one-to-one coaching and interactive workshops integrate her deep compassion, knowledge, and skills with powerful frameworks that help individuals and groups engage in their work with clarity and courage. She creates safe, inviting spaces to explore living fully every day.

Harris, D. L., RN, RSW, MEd (Couns), PhD, FT



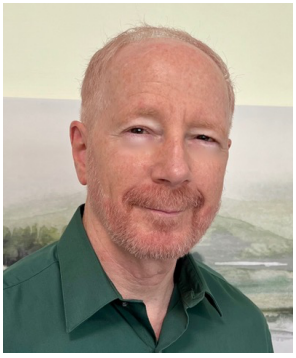
Darcy L. Harris is Professor Emeritus of Thanatology at King's University College / Western University in London, Canada. She is also a faculty member of the Portland Institute for Loss and Transition and co-editor for Routledge Publishing Company's *Death, Dying, and Bereavement Series*. She has maintained a private therapy practice for over 25 years, focusing on issues related to loss and grief. She is an internationally recognized author and speaker, and has published numerous articles, chapters, and books on topics related to loss and grief. Her primary research interests include non-death loss and grief and the application of compassion-based approaches to contexts of loss and grief.

Lindemann, E., ATR-BC, ATCS, LMFT



Evie Lindemann is a board-certified art therapist and credentialed supervisor, a licensed marriage and family therapist and certified archetypal pattern analyst. Evie is associate professor emerita at Albertus Magnus College: Master of Arts in Art Therapy and Counseling and taught at the Yale University Sherwin B. Nuland Summer Institute of Bioethics, where she presented multicultural issues at the end of life. She is on the faculty of the Portland Institute for Loss and Transition as well as on the faculty of the Center for Journal Therapy. She has lived and worked in Afghanistan, Israel, and India and implemented humanitarian art therapy projects in India, Jamaica, and the US. She is active in hospice care, offers courses on mortality, the use of visual arts to facilitate the inward journey, and has worked with combat veterans with complex trauma. Evie has exhibited nationally and internationally as a printmaking artist. She receives personal guidance from her spiritual teacher, Meher Baba, an Indian mystic who maintained silence for 43 years. Evie has written six book chapters on the applications of art therapy for grief, hospice, pediatric medicine, and healing after loss. She has also written journal articles on spirituality and pilgrimage. Her articles can be found in the following journals: *The Arts in Psychotherapy*, *Nursing Research*, *Dictionary of Religion and Spirituality*, *Clinical Excellence in Nursing*, *Journal of the American Art Therapy Association*, and *The Arts in Psychotherapy*.

Neimeyer, R. A., PhD



Robert A. Neimeyer is Professor Emeritus of the Department of Psychology, University of Memphis, maintains an active consulting practice, and directs the Portland Institute for Loss and Transition, which provides global onsite and online training in grief therapy. Neimeyer has published 37 books, including *Living Beyond Loss: Questions and Answers about Grief and Bereavement* and *New Techniques of Grief Therapy*, and serves as Editor of *Death Studies*. The author of over 600 articles and book chapters, he has been recognized in the Stanford University/Elsevier list of Top 2% Scientists in the world, with over 60,000 citations to his work according to Google Scholar. Neimeyer is currently working to advance a more adequate theory of grieving as a meaning-making process. In recognition of his contributions, he has been made a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and given Lifetime Achievement Awards by both the Association for Death Education and Counseling and the International Network on Personal Meaning.

Ng, C., PsyD, MMSAC, RegCLR



Carolyn Ng maintains a private practice, Anchorage for Loss and Transition (www.anchorage-for-loss.org), for training, supervision and therapy in Singapore, while also serving as an Associate Director of the Portland Institute. Previously she was a Principal Counsellor with the Children's Cancer Foundation in Singapore, specializing in cancer-related palliative care and bereavement counselling. She is a registered counselor, master clinical member and approved supervisor with the Singapore Association for Counselling (SAC), as well as a trained end-of-life doula and advanced care planning facilitator. She is also trained in the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, USA, community crisis response by the National Organisation for Victim Assistance (NOVA), USA, and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) by LivingWorks, Canada. Her recent writing concerns meaning-oriented narrative reconstruction with bereaved individuals and families, with an emphasis on conversational approaches for fostering new meaning and action.

Sanderson Brown, S., PsyD



Samantha Sanderson Brown is a licensed clinical psychologist and founder of Beyond Sport Psychology, a private practice in Colorado. Over the years, her professional and personal experiences have illuminated the role that grief plays at many inflection points across the lifespan. As she pursues her certification with the Portland Institute for Loss and Transition, she has learned to use grief to inform her work regardless of clinical presentation. Dr. Brown's specific passions lie in elite athletes transitioning from sport, adjusting to health status changes, and their intersection. She serves as the Assistant Medical Director for Player Wellness for Major League Soccer Players' Association and is the co-creator of Success Beyond Sports, a program that supports athletes facing retirement. She is frequently consulted on cases of chronic illness, as well as concussion and persistent concussive symptoms.

Strouse, S., MA, ATR-BC, LCPAT



Sharon Strouse is a board-certified and licensed art therapist and Associate Director for the Portland Institute for loss and Transition: Art-Assisted Grief Therapy Certification. Her art therapy private practice, national presentations, trainings and practitioner supervision / mentoring focus on traumatic loss, specifically with parents who have lost a child, suicide bereavement, and loss in military families. The theoretical foundations of her group and individual art therapy work are grounded in meaning reconstruction, attachment informed grief therapy, continuing bonds with the deceased and restorative retelling. She is author of *Artful Grief: A Diary of Healing*, (www.artfulgrief.com) written twelve years after the suicide of her seventeen-year-old daughter. She is co-founder of The Kristin Rita Strouse Foundation (www.krsf.com), a non-profit dedicated to supporting programs that increase awareness of mental health through education and the arts.

Vaughans, D. C., PhD, LPC-S



Doris Vaughans is a licensed professional counselor and supervisor in Alabama and Georgia and the owner of the Tuscaloosa Center for Cognitive Therapy. She serves as the Associate Director of Embedded Counseling at The University of Alabama, is a faculty member of the Portland Institute for Loss and Transition, and an Adjunct Professor at the University of West Alabama, where she teaches grief counseling. A former registered nurse with more than 22 years of experience in hospice and palliative care, Dr. Vaughans has counseled over 2,000 individuals and families navigating grief and loss. She is a nationally recognized speaker who provides professional trainings, consultation, and presentations on grief, bereavement, and end-of-life care for clinicians, educators, and healthcare professionals.

Vollmann, S., DSW, MPS, ATR-BC, LICSW



Sarah Vollmann is a registered, board-certified art therapist, licensed clinical social worker, and researcher. She is a faculty member of the Portland Institute for Loss and Transition, and the Associate Director of the *Young Widowhood Project*. She maintains a private practice specializing in grief and traumatic loss and is the Lead Counselor at Buckingham Browne & Nichols School. Her work has been published in *OMEGA: Journal of Death and Dying, Death Studies, The International Journal of Art Therapy,* and *The Journal of the American Art Therapy Association.* Dr. Vollmann has authored several book chapters on art therapy and grief, and recently co-authored a book entitled, *Born into Loss: Shadows of a Deceased Sibling and Family Journeys of Grief.* She presents nationally and internationally on art therapy, grief, and bereavement.

Zampitella, C., PsyD, FT



Christina Zampitella is a licensed clinical psychologist, Fellow of Thanatology, and founder of the Center for Grief and Trauma Therapy. For more than 20 years, she has specialized in grief, trauma, and integrative psychology as a clinician, educator, and consultant. She serves on the faculty of the Portland Institute for Loss and Transition and teaches graduate and continuing education courses for mental health professionals. Dr. Zampitella also hosts *Phoenix Rising with Dr. Z*, a podcast focused on death, loss, grief, and trauma, and has appeared as a psychological expert in national and regional media.